

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
June 6, 2003

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, June 6, 2003 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth, Mary Beth Bonaventura, Mary R. Harper, Stephen R. Heimann, Lynn Murray, Daniel L. Pflum, R. Paulette Stagg, Frank Sullivan, Jr., Viola J. Taliaferro and James W. Payne, temporary chair.
2. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on May 2, 2003 were approved.
3. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
4. Guests present. Laurie Elliott, Children's Law Center; Betty Walton, Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA); John Viernes, Director for Public Policy, DMHA; and Jimmie McMillian, law clerk for Justice Sullivan.
5. Assessment of access to legal counsel. Laurie Elliott, Children's Law Center reported the Center will conduct an assessment of access by juveniles to legal counsel. The American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center will oversee the assessment that is being conducted in Indiana and thirteen (13) other states. It will include a written survey to juvenile court judges and public defenders, interviewing children in facilities, and court observations and interview in selected small, medium and large counties. She said an advisory board will be appointed to oversee this project and asked for a representative from the committee. Magistrate Stagg and Judge Murray agreed to serve on this board.
6. Outcomes measures for juveniles with mental health needs. Betty Walton, Consultant, DMHA, gave a PowerPoint presentation on an initiative of DMHA to prepare a waiver of Medicaid eligibility for juveniles to receive mental health treatment. About fifty - two hundred "slots" will be available for these juveniles on a pilot basis. She said a working group would be formed to focus on outcomes of juveniles in this waiver group and asked for a representative from this committee to serve on the group. Judge Harper agreed to serve on this group.
7. CIP update. Justice Sullivan reported the Court Improvement Project (CIP) would likely hold course with previous years by funding projects in Indiana's larger counties with the most children that could be replicated statewide, supplementing the Family Court Project, and contributing money to the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee for development of a juvenile case management system. The CIP is also beginning to consider funding of a detailed assessment of improvements during the life of the project that is required by HHS. The deadline for the completion of the assessment is June 30, 2005.

8. Commissions. Jeffrey Bercovitz:
- a. Reported S.E.A. 62 created the Commission on Abused and Neglected Children that must be appointed by August 15, 2003. He agreed to report to Chief Justice Shepard that Judge Pflum and Judge Bonaventura agreed to serve on the commission.
 - b. Distributed a copy of Legislative Council Resolution (LCR) 3-01, May 28, 2003, which created the following juvenile related study committees: Interim Study Committee on Juvenile Law and Corrections; recommended a study of children's mental health services by the Mental Health Commission; and recommended the Interim Study Committee on Educational Achievement study students excluded from school without being expelled.
 - c. Reported the Civil Rights of Children Committee, Indiana State Bar Association was planning a Seminar on Mental Health Needs of Children on September 23, 2003 at the ICLEF training facility in Indianapolis. He distributed the Judge Viola Taliaferro Award Nomination form to the committee. They agreed to distribute this at the Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judicial Officers in Brown County. In addition, he said the Civil Rights of Children Committee is planning a juvenile law educational program in May 2004.
9. Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judicial Officers. Jeffrey Bercovitz gave an overview of the Juvenile Court Judicial Officers Conference in Brown County, June 19-20, 2003 entitled: Innovative Programs in Juvenile Court, 100th Anniversary of Juvenile Court in Indiana.
10. Other. Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed the following:
- a. A list of facilities that are approved for use under the Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services fund from Susan Kilty, FSSA
 - b. Indiana State Improvement Plan, October 2002 and the Indiana Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), Final Report, January 2002. Committee members agreed this needs discussion at another meeting.
 - c. Newspaper articles: State Law Limits Penalty for Child's Death in Car, Indianapolis Star, May 16, 2003, p. B1; Court Fees Create Woes for County, The Journal Gazette, (Ft. Wayne) June 4, 2003; and Father Camps Across from YOC to Be Near Son, The Star Press (Muncie), June 5, 2003.
11. Next meeting dates. The committee members agreed to meet on the following dates: October 3, 2003, November 7, 2003, January 9, 2004, February 6, 2004, March 5, 2004, May 7, 2004, and June 4, 2004 all from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law